

HOSPITAL UNIT REPORT  
WESTERN STATE HOSPITAL  
STAUNTON, VIRGINIA  
Unit 44

44

SECTION I. GENERAL

Time of Arrival: 10:00 A.M., Tuesday, February 15, 1944

Time of Departure: 11:00 A.M., Thursday, February 17, 1944

Administration:

Superintendent: D. L. Harrell, M.D.

Assistant Director: Alfred G. Zook

Size of Unit: 33 (Including 5 at DeJarnette Sanitarium)

Number of Wives: 8

SECTION II. SUMMARY OF REGIONAL VISITOR'S ACTIVITY

No. of Visits: First

No. of Men Visited: 29

No. of Wives Met: 4

Diary of Activities:

Tuesday morning: Personal time.

Tuesday afternoon: Visit to men on wards.

Wednesday morning: Visit to Sanitarium.

Wednesday afternoon: Visit to several wards and discussions at CPS house.

Wednesday evening: Talks with men at the house.

Thursday morning: Discussion with Alfred Zook, returned from furlough.  
Departure for Richmond with Dr. Harrell and Al. Zook.

Meetings Attended: No specially called meetings.

Interviews with Staff: No interviews with staff with the exception of our informal conversation with Dr. Harrell enroute to Richmond.

SECTION III. ANALYSIS OF LIVING AND WORKING CONDITIONS AT STAUNTON

(Following is the analysis of the living and working conditions at the Staunton Unit which I presented to J. N. Byler on the eve of the Richmond Conference)

A. Food

Pro: Usually sufficient quantity - one can always eat bread and drink coffee; The meals are bad but not unbearable.

Con: 1. Lack of variety in the menus.

2. Dietetically unbalanced meals.

--no milk to drink

--very few vegetables

--apples virtually only fruit served

3. Food unattractively served; poorly prepared; food often cold; especially at the second sitting.

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4. Uncleanliness
  - dishes and utensils sometimes dirty
  - milk unpasteurized
  - cockroaches in dining hall

### Results:

1. Some lose weight--one man lost 20 pounds.
2. Seriously undermines morale.
3. Complaints of lack of energy because of inadequate diet.
4. Men purchase own food and bring it to the table; breakfast cereals, fruit, etc.
5. Men purchase own meals occasionally in town.
6. Men prepare food in their rooms, buy milk.

### Remarks:

1. Better food is served at the staff table than at the employees table. Employees' food is virtually the same as patients' food.
2. With the given circumstances of kitchen staff, dining room and kitchen facilities, and state funds available--~~is it~~ reasonable to think that employee meals can be improved? The food situation will be little improved unless the entire dietary department is reorganized. Is the MCC prepared to insist on this? One alternative might be advanced: send a half dozen or more CPS men into the kitchen and dining room.

### B. Hours

Following are representative hours for a CPS attendant on a two-attendant ward:

1. Workday 6:30 A.M. to 6:30 P.M.
2. Alternate days 6:30 to 8:00 (9:00 on Saturdays)
  - 1½ hours relief from 3:30 to 5:00 P.M.
3. Approximately one day off in seven
4. Meals during work hours.
5. Approximately five cents an hour overtime pay for the hours in excess of 54. This amounts to three to five dollars a month. This is a galling arrangement for the CPS men.

### C. Recreation Facilities

1. None of the following: Gym, ball fields, tennis courts, ping pong tables, recreation room.
2. YMCA in Staunton available to the men. Six men compose the CPS basketball team which competes in the city league. The fee for the season is \$2.00.
3. Recreation is imperative for the hospital attendant. Many of the employees escape from the ward drudgery via liquor, etc. No such escape for the CPS men need facilities for their leisure hour activities.

#### D. Medical Care

1. Miss Troxel usually visits employees when they are sick in quarters. Rarely does the doctor visit the employee patient, unless especially requested. Treatment is prescribed on Miss Troxel's recommendation.
2. Care of Richard Bentzinger, stab wound victim, thought unsatisfactory.
3. Well supplied medicine cabinet in the CPS house with First Aid materials, drugs, medicines provided by the hospital.

#### E. Housing

1. Single men. CPS house is satisfactory. The only complaints are the single shower and the limited supply of hot water.
2. Married couples. These are less attractive quarters. Mr. & Mrs. Stutzman have undesirable quarters, particularly the bathroom.
3. Sanitarium. Satisfactory quarters.
4. I am very doubtful whether there are adequate available housing facilities for any additional men in the Unit.

#### F. Public Relations

1. Excellent relations with community and with city churches.
2. Ideally located near Mennonite communities.
3. Satisfactory relations with other employees.

#### G. Relations with the Staff

1. Relations with Dr. Harrell are satisfactory. Some feel Miss Troxel might be prejudicing him against the group. Some men would be reluctant to quit at Staunton out of respect to Dr. Harrell, they feel his hands are tied in a difficult situation.
2. Relations with Miss Troxel, Superintendent of Nursing, and Mr. Moyer, Male Supervisor, are unsatisfactory. Many of the problems at Staunton stem from the relations between Miss Troxel and the CPS men.
  - a. Rude treatment. The Male Supervisor asked one CPS man what he used to kill a patient.
  - b. Lack of appreciation. The men count as their most bitter rebuff Miss Troxel's recent announcement of charge attendant appointments in which no CPS men were appointed. One CO had served on a ward five months; he had worked with eleven other attendants; only he had remained there continuously. A capable man, he was by-passed in the appointments. Miss Troxel explained that charge attendants receive \$5.00 more a month; she could therefore not appoint CO's. The men consider this an unsatisfactory explanation.
3. The men feel that the hospital approach (that is Miss Troxel's approach) is to deal with each CO individually and not as a member of a CPS Unit. Men who have front office jobs are expected to be "company men", co-operative and sympathetic with the outlook of the hospital staff.
4. Relations with the staff is an area in which one cannot legislate for improvement. One thing which may be done is to bring in a new group of CPS men who begin with an unprejudiced attitude toward Miss Troxel and the staff.

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H. Summary of the Attitude of the Men

1. Satisfied:
  - a. Seven men from Virginia -- not strong group men.
  - b. Married men at Sanitarium.
  - c. Several of recent transferees from Belton.
2. Dissatisfied: Perhaps six men want out under present conditions.
3. In Between: The majority are dissatisfied but not inclined to ask for transfer. Some of these are inclined to carry on just to show that they "can take it".

I. Recommendations

Following are several alternatives of approach to the Staunton situation:

1. Withdraw the entire unit. The grounds would be the inadequate care of the physical needs of men who are conscripted for service by the United States government.
2. No additions to the Unit. Permit all men who wish to transfer out of Staunton to do so, but to make no further replacements. This is based on the assumption that relatively no improvements can be anticipated at Staunton. (This is my qualified recommendation.)
3. Add men to fill the 50 man quote with the following provisions:
  - a. A 54 hour week.
  - b. Improved diet and meals.
  - c. Recreation room.
  - d. Transfer of all dissatisfied men back to camp including those who have been at Staunton less than a year. No stigma is to be attached to their decision to leave Staunton.

SECTION IV. REMARKS

Nothing in this report has been said concerning the religious life, educational program, recreation of the Staunton Unit. If the Western State Unit is to continue, if more men are to be added, I believe it wise to plan for another trip in the near future to discuss with the leader plans for the religious, educational, recreational life of the group. Also meriting study and attention is the orientation of the incoming group.

Sincerely submitted,

*Robert Kreider*

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